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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/594,753	05/22/2008	Bernd Ullmann	KURARAY-0014	3795
23599 7590 12/29/2010 MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C. 2200 CLARENDON BLVD. SUITE 1400 ARLINGTON, VA 22201				
EXAMINER				
HALPERN, MARK				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1741				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/29/2010		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@mwzb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/594,753

Applicant(s)

ULLMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Halpern

Art Unit

1741

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7 and 9-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-16, 20 and 21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7, 9-11, 17-19 and 22-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-940)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

- 1) Acknowledgement is made of Amendment received 10/28/2010.

Claim 1 is amended, claim 8 is cancelled, and new claims 22-26 are offered for consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- 2) Claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 17-19, 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP § 2173.05(c). Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131

USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949).

In the present instance, claim 1 recites the broad recitation “water soluble binders”, and the claim also recites “ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers, acetalized ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers, acetalized polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl butyrals, cationically modified polyvinyl alcohols containing silanol groups, acetalized cationically modified polyvinyl alcohols containing acetalized silanol groups, polyvinyl alcohols containing carboxyl groups” each of which is the narrower statement of the limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- 3) Claims 1-4, 7, 9-19, 22-26, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by

or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Schoeller (EP 0 545 043), (translation of patent EP 0 545 043 obtained by the Office is used in the Office Action; copy of the translation provided to the Applicants). Schoeller discloses paper sized with alkenyl succinic anhydride (ASA) and/or alkylketene dimers (AKDs) and includes pulps having a freeness of 35° SR. The paper is also impregnated with polyvinyl alcohol applied in an aqueous solution, which is water-soluble binder (Pages 5-6, and Examples 1-3, Pages 8-12). The claims are considered as product by process claims since the paper is produced by a process from strongly beaten pulps with a degree of beating of 15° SR to 90° SR.

In the event any differences can be shown for the product of the product-by-process claims 1-4, 7, 9-19, 22-26, as opposed to the product taught by the reference Schoeller, such differences would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as a routine modification of the product in the absence of a showing of unexpected results; see also In re Thorpe, 227 USPQ 964 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Response to Amendment

- 4) Copies of foreign prior art references (recited in the IDS of 9/29/2006) B1-B4 are not included with the Amendment of 10/28/2010.
- 5) Applicants' arguments filed 10/28/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants allege that the claim 1 rejection of a broad recitation and a narrow recitation is proper and not indefinite.

The rejection is proper as per above. Claim 1 recites the broad recitation "water soluble binders", and the claim also recites "ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers, acetalized ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers, acetalized polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl butyrals, cationically modified polyvinyl alcohols containing silanol groups, acetalized cationically modified polyvinyl alcohols containing acetalized silanol groups, polyvinyl alcohols containing carboxyl groups" each of which is the narrower statement of the limitation.

Applicants allege that the cited prior art, Schoeller, does not disclose paper sized with alkenyl succinic anhydride (ASA) and/or alkylketene dimers (AKDs) and does not disclose water soluble binder.

Schoeller discloses paper sized with alkenyl succinic anhydride (ASA) and/or alkylketene dimers (AKDs) and includes pulps having a freeness of 35° SR. The paper is also impregnated with polyvinyl alcohol applied in an aqueous solution, which is water-soluble binder (Pages 5-6, and Examples 1-3, Pages 8-12).

Conclusion

6) Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone no. is 571-272-1190.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Daniels can be reached on 571-272-2450. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

/Mark Halpern/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1741